

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 928

By Barker

A RESOLUTION to honor and applaud Head Coach Darren Bowling and the Union City High School football team on capturing the TSSAA Class 1A State Championship.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach Darren Bowling, the Union City High School football team achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2009 season, establishing an impressive record of twelve wins and two losses and winning the BlueCross Bowl Class 1A State Championship Game; and

WHEREAS, the Union City High School Tornadoes successfully navigated the sea of playoff standouts by triumphing over the powerhouse teams of South Fulton (49-7), Huntingdon (30-7), and Wayne County (31-21) in a phenomenal drive to the state championship game in Cookeville; and

WHEREAS, Union City concluded its remarkable season on December 4, 2009, by routing the four-time champion South Pittsburg High School Pirates by a score of 31-29, thereby capturing the school's first-ever state football championship; and

WHEREAS, this herculean effort was led by the outstanding individual performance of senior Josh Nicks, who set a championship game record with 47 carries and ran for 200 yards, and was named as the game's Offensive Most Valuable Player; and

WHEREAS, senior Kendrick Price ran for 92 yards and two touchdowns for the Tornadoes, while senior Jacob Worley scored Union City's first touchdown on a five-yard run; and

WHEREAS, junior Jorge Guerri, a foreign exchange student from Spain who is experiencing "American football" for the first time ever, kicked a 22-yard field goal with two seconds to play to lift Union City to its first-ever state football championship; and

WHEREAS, the extraordinary success of the Union City High School football team came under the exceptional leadership of Head Coach Darren Bowling and his estimable assistants, Brandon Duncan, Mack Moore, Nick Markle, and Morgan Cruce; and

WHEREAS, the phenomenal players who comprise the Union City High School Tornadoes are: seniors Keenan Luellen, Raphe Alexander, Jacob Worley, Zack Cavness, Josh Nicks, Kendrick Price, Lee McCord, Dominic Watson, Rance Barnes, Ronnie Fair, Stevie Gossett, Carlo G. Sammarco, Will Arnold, and Antuwan Powell; juniors Chase Bowling, Jorge Guerri, Trey Maddox, and Kelly Scales; sophomores Chris Boucher, Benjamin White, Devin Burnside, Travis Coleman, Nick Crumble, Audare Lee, Terrance Fitts, and Michael Dysart; and freshmen Christian Cousar, Jay Paul Garrigan, Joseph Shanks, Deandrez Williams, Travis Rutland, Keontre Murrell, Keylon Hyde, Walker Barnes, Garrett Lawley, Abram Carroll, Brett Gore, Walter Williams, Jaun Pina, Emery Whaley, Niarobi Brooks, and Russell Rice. Each of these players made a significant contribution to the success the team has enjoyed this season; and

WHEREAS, the team inspired the Union City High School student body and the entire Union City community throughout their amazing season; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a successful and memorable football season, but also surely point toward success in their future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the football players at Union City High School epitomize all that is noble in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved the highest level of success on the gridiron while pursuing academic excellence in the classroom and have exhibited the highest degree of character both on and off the field; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the Union City High School Tornadoes upon the team's capture of the Class 1A State Championship; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the administration, faculty, students, alumni, and community of Union City High School in congratulating the Tornadoes' coaches and players on their state championship season, offering our best wishes for their continued success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.